

*BEST COPY*

*AVAILABLE*

Circ.: e. 396,603

APR 13 1958

S. 487,213

Front Page Edit Page Other Page

Date:

# Underground Soviet Blast Felt In U.S., Humphrey Discloses

Explosion in Ural Mountains March 25  
Senator Consults Seismologists, Will  
Announce Replies Later

By RICHARD DUDMAN  
A Washington Correspondent  
of the Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON, April 12

A Soviet underground explosion last month was detected by seismographic stations up to 5000 miles away, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, D-Minnesota, said today.

Humphrey, chairman of the Senate disarmament subcommittee, at the same time promised to make public additional information he expects to get about test detection through a questionnaire he has sent to 17 United States seismologists.

The Soviet underground explosion, fired March 25, was detected at College, Alaska; Hungry Horse, Mont.; Encke, Nev.; Kiruna, and Uppsala, Sweden; and Sholing, India, Humphrey said.

Information from these stations, he said, made it possible to locate the explosion in the northern Ural mountains, just outside Pokrovsk, Ural. The Encke, Nev., station is 5000 miles from that point.

## No Quake In 40 Years

Humphrey said the blast was in an area which has had no earthquakes for more than 40 years.

Humphrey's announcement was part of an effort to inform the public about some of the technical problems of disarmament. He has criticized the reluctance of officials of the executive branch to make public details on the reliability of seismographic devices. Those details, he said, would help answer the question of whether the Russians would be able to negotiate an agreement to suspend top secret tests.

Unfortunately, the studies conducted by the executive branch on inspection of a suspension of nuclear weapons tests have not been made public, Humphrey said. It is, therefore, necessary for the subcommittee to conduct its own studies, which will be made available to the American people to reflect the

facts of inspection systems to verify a suspension of weapons tests.

## Obtained From CIA

The committee obtained information on test detection from the Central Intelligence Agency, but this was taken to executive session. Efforts to arrange for publication of parts of the testimony of Herbert Scoville of the CIA, who testified March 20, have been unsuccessful.

Another source of information is a task force on test detection under Dr. James R. Killian Jr., the President's special adviser for science and technology. President Eisenhower has said parts of that group's report might be made public. The subcommittee is understood not to have seen the Killian report yet.

In his letter to the seismologists, Humphrey told the point of the crucial issues in a proposal to suspend nuclear weapons tests is the "kind of inspection systems which would be necessary to assure that no parties were observing any suspension agreement."

One of the purposes of the questionnaire, he said, is to determine, with respect to areas in which earthquakes occur, how close the seismological stations would need to be placed in order to distinguish an earthquake from a nuclear explosion.

## Points in Questionnaire

Humphrey's questionnaire included the following points:

1. Distances to which underground explosions of different sizes could be detected.

2. A list of distances and with how many seismological stations a nuclear blast could be detected from an earthquake.

3. Number of earthquakes of up to 17 kiloton explosion which occur in the Soviet Union and U.S.S.R. with a magnitude of greater than 4.0, and the size of the Soviet Union's nuclear explosion program by the A.S. Comparison of the Soviet Union's